

Dutky Cabin

CT-1300

2133 Blue Bell Road, Scientists' Cliffs, Port Republic (Calvert County)

1936, private access

The Dutky Cabin, located within the Scientist's Cliffs subdivision near Port Republic, Maryland and constructed in 1936, is a two story rustic log cabin set within Scientists' Cliffs, a mid-twentieth century residential subdivision bordering on the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County. The Dutky Cabin features extensive landscape elements and a unique interior fireplace. The community of Scientists' Cliffs serves as an example of a twentieth century residential subdivision of vacation homes, with important landscape features. In addition, the Dutky Cabin is associated with the Gravatt family, who played an important role in the founding of Scientists' Cliffs.

Inventory No. CT-1300

1. Name of Property

historic Dutky Cabin

other Gran's Cabin

2. Location

street and number 2133 Blue Bell Road not for publication

city, town Port Republic x vicinity

county	Calvert
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3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Ethel Dutky
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street and number	14112 New Hampshire Avenue	telephone	301.384.5305
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city, town	Silver Spring	state	MD	zip code	20904
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	liber	ABE	folio 574/32
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city, town	tax map 28A	tax parcel Lot 9 / part of lot 10	tax ID number 01-0550311
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: Scientists' Cliffs archival collection

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	_____ commerce/trade	_____ recreation/culture	<u> 1 </u>	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ religion	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		<u> x </u> domestic	_____ social	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	<u> 1 </u>	_____ Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ industry	_____ other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

Inventory No. CT-1300

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dutky Cabin, located near Port Republic, Maryland, is a two story rustic log cabin set within Scientists' Cliffs, a residential subdivision bordering the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County. The Dutky Cabin features extensive landscape elements and a unique interior fireplace.

The Dutky Cabin is a two story rustic wood frame cabin, constructed in 1936, according to information from the current owner. The cabin was built in Scientists' Cliffs, a residential subdivision of vacation homes founded in 1935. The subdivision features narrow curvilinear dirt roads, limited access, and residential buildings of similar rusticated construction, within a densely landscaped setting, facing east towards Chesapeake Bay. The cabin is set atop a small ridge, which slopes downward towards the Bay. A series of tall cliffs are set to the north of the subdivision. The subdivision also features a community center and mature, dense foliage, as well as other landscaping elements including bamboo and shrubbery. The property is set on a sloping lot, with dense planting in lieu of a lawn on the eastern façade and a small driveway leading to the northwestern corner.

As the site drops off dramatically to the east, the Dutky Cabin is placed into a hillside on the west elevation. The two story house has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles, tongue and groove vertical redwood siding, and a concrete block foundation. The main block of the house is four bays wide and rectangular in plan with several ells. The house is oriented toward the east with the main entrance on the north elevation. Each side of the cabin has an irregular arrangement of window and door openings.

A two story ell projects from the east façade on the three northern bays. The ell has a low pitched roof with a deep overhang, which is joined into the gable of the main block. The east façade of the ell contains three regularly-spaced rectangular openings on the second story. The opening in the center contains a square fixed center pane with two smaller, rectangular single sash sliding windows on either side; all of the openings have single sliding sash windows unless otherwise noted. The two flanking openings have windows. The first floor has two pairs of window openings, placed symmetrically about the center; the two in the center are square shaped while the two on the outside are rectangular. While the south elevation of the ell contains a single window in the first and second stories, the north elevation only has a window on the second story, as the first story is set into the hillside. A terrace surrounds the ell and the main block on the east; wood railings and posts define the outside edge.

The fourth bay to the south has an asymmetrical gable roof that covers an ell that extends to the west. The first story of the bay is painted concrete block. On the east façade, there is a centrally placed rectangular window on the first and second stories. The south elevation features three irregularly spaced, square-shaped window openings on the second story. Two are symmetrically arranged about the gable and the third located in the ell towards the west. On the first story, there is a square shaped window directly below the eastern-most window on the second floor. Below the middle window is a door that opens out onto the terrace.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1300

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The west elevation is set into the hillside, and due to the topography, the first story is completely obscured; however, a portion of the second story projects above grade level. There is a curved, brick retaining wall with raking struck mortar joints surrounding the southwestern corner that creates a small area around the ell, now used for storage. The west elevation of the main block contains a small square shaped window towards the southern end of the elevation, centrally placed beneath a small cross gable in the roof. The line of the gable terminates at the corner where the ell extends from the main block. On the north side of the ell, there is a rectangular window which is covered by a small rectangular roof section placed beneath the eaves of the main roof and supported by a centrally located square wood post and two angled braces that extend from the wall of the ell to the outside corners of the section.

On the north elevation of the main block, a fieldstone chimney located in the center of the gable projects from the wall surface, beneath the roof overhang, and extends above the roofline. The chimney is flanked to the west by a projecting concrete block chimney and to the east by a square-shaped window at the top edge of the second story. Another square-shaped window is located on the west side of the concrete block chimney. The north elevation also has a small projecting ell with gable roof that serves as an entrance pavilion, the east side of which extends to grade level. A wood framed doorway with a metal door having a single fixed pane and a metal screen door are located beneath the gable. The doorway opens onto a small wood deck with wood railings and posts that extends to the north and is accessed from grade via three wooden steps.

The cabin has stone steps extending to the rear of the cabin. The dense landscape features include a leatherwood tree, ferns, and woodland wildflowers. The site has no lawn, but instead extensive plantings and informal paths.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-1300

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1936 **Architect/Builder** Harold Matteson

Construction dates 1936

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Dutky Cabin is set within Scientists' Cliffs. The community of Scientists' Cliffs serves as an example of a twentieth century residential subdivision with important landscape features. In addition, the Dutky Cabin is associated with the Gravatt family, who played an important role in the founding of Scientists' Cliffs.

The Dutky Cabin was built in 1936 by Harold Matteson, who also constructed other cabins at Scientists' Cliffs. The cabin was occupied by founder George "Flippo" Gravatt's mother. In addition, the cabin served as a home for Joseph Showalter's family in the early 1940s while their house was under construction.

Scientists' Cliffs was founded in 1935 by George "Flippo" Gravatt and his wife, Annie Evelyn Rathburn, who were both forest pathologists at the Department of Agriculture. Flippo Gravatt was familiar with the area due to his extensive studies of a collection of nearby blighted American Chestnut trees. Starting with an initial allocation of 238 acres in 1935 (purchased from Marmaduke White of Baltimore), the Gravatts acquired more than 750 acres by 1961. The original purchase area includes portions of the Scientists' Cliffs community known as Gates B and C.

Flippo Gravatt founded Scientists' Cliffs with the intention of creating an affordable vacation and residential community that would also promote the protection of the natural environment and advancement of science. In the fall of 1935, Flippo Gravatt hosted a picnic for his fellow plant scientists at the Department of Agriculture. At the site of the future subdivision, Gravatt announced the formation of an exclusive community of scientists and their families. Gravatt and Rathburn built the first house on the site in the spring of 1936, known as "Chestnut Cabin" (which now serves as a community center), out of blight-killed chestnut trees. Following the construction of the Chestnut Cabin, Gravatt constructed five small cabins for the use of day and weekend guests, many of whom were "sold" on the community and became eventual members and owners. The Scientists' Cliffs Association was officially incorporated in 1937 with the mission of promoting interest in the natural sciences, maintaining a library and fossil museum, protecting natural areas, and organizing scientific lectures and field trips. The fossils at Scientists' Cliffs also served as a research interest, and many of the fossils have been incorporated into the

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1300

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

fireplaces of homes throughout the community. The Scientists' Cliffs Association initially included restrictive bylaws in which all members (property owners) were required to be scientists. This bylaw was later relaxed to include those with college degrees, and then to include those without formal college education but who had demonstrated professional distinction. The community was popular as a summer family vacation area, and has gained an increasing number of year-round residents. The Scientists' Cliffs community now includes over 200 residences.

Horticulture was a central focus in the landscape design of Scientists' Cliffs. In addition to maintaining undeveloped woodlands, this activity consisted of planting filberts, bamboo, figs, blight-resistant hybrid Chinese chestnuts, grapes, and fruit trees. Additionally, over 70 varieties of azaleas were planted at the site. The community itself was founded as a result of Flippo Gravatt's interest in horticultural pathology, and the blighted trees on site were used to construct some of the earliest buildings. Landscape architecture is an important historic theme at Scientists' Cliffs – which is evident in both the master planning and siting of houses within the existing natural setting – as well as in the highly unusual variety of horticultural elements.

Cabins and houses were not only set within an existing natural setting, but were also built from logs cut and milled at an onsite mill. "The decision was for log construction. A sawmill that produced logs was installed. The first few cabins were built of blight-killed chestnut. Subsequent cabins were built of tulip poplar or pine logs. In the mid-fifties log construction gave way to wood siding." Flippo Gravatt brought Harold Matteson to Scientists' Cliffs to run the sawmill and provide construction services. Matteson's father also built furniture and interior cabinets for many of the early homes. Bert Miles also built several early homes. Dickey Wallace undertook the construction of unique sandstone fireplaces for several early homes. Gravatt also brought Joseph Showalter, who had served as a plant pathologist at Virginia Polytechnic, to build homes and to run the nursery, which included over 70 varieties of azaleas.¹

Scientists' Cliffs served as an early attempt to create a residential community that operated on a sustainable ecological philosophy. Such an ecological philosophy was distinctly different from large-scale "tract" residential subdivisions common to the early and mid twentieth century – however, the notions of social progress expressed by the founders and residents of Scientists' Cliffs were part of an important trend of Progressivism, a broad social movement that sought alternative strategies for urban communities that was particularly active during the 1930s. This Progressive notion has been maintained by an active community organization at Scientists' Cliffs. A contemporary local history notes that "the original effort, maintained throughout the years, was to create a very different sort of community, one that would be as simple and inexpensive as possible, a place where people of comparable means and similar tastes might relax beside the Bay."²

¹ "A Dream Realized," 3.

² Ibid, 3.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-1300

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

The Scientists' Cliffs community was affected by World War II, as fuel for the long motor trips from Washington DC was rationed, and many owners rented cabins to nearby servicemen. After World War II, Scientists' Cliffs Road, leading to the community from Route 4, which was a narrow, dirt and gravel unfinished roadway, was widened and improved. Scientists' Cliffs reflected the important and transformative role played by automotive transportation in the development of residential and vacation communities.³

Flippo Gravatt worked closely with the early builders and contractors in the construction and development of Scientists' Cliffs. The development features common spaces (including the Chestnut Cabin, as well as a later swimming pool addition to replace a swimming hole), an ecological natural style (slightly different from the more deliberate picturesque movement) and a cohesive building type. In addition, information regarding Flippo Gravatt, who served as founder and developer, as well as the social goals of the founding community, allows Scientists' Cliffs to be considered as an important site in the suburban development of the United States.

³ Gloria Schultz Leppi, "The Rope Swings and Other Early Memories of Scientists' Cliffs," n.d., 1, 4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-1300

"A Dream Realized: A History of the Scientists' Cliffs Association 1937-1987" unpublished.

Ames, David L. *Context and Guidelines for Evaluating America's Historic Suburbs for the National Register of Historic Places*. Draft. 1996. .

Chase, Susan, David Ames and Rebecca Siders

1992 *Suburbanization in the Vicinity of Wilmington, Delaware, 1880-1950+/-*. Newark, DE: Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, University of Delaware.

Gloria Schultz Leppi "The Rope Swings and Other Early Memories of Scientists' Cliffs" n.d.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .315

Acreage of historical setting .315

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the surveyed property is marked as Tax Map 28A, Parcel 9 and a portion of Parcel 10. The existing Parcel is concurrent with the historic setting, and includes character-defining resources and setting which relate to the property's construction and evolution.

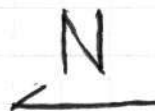
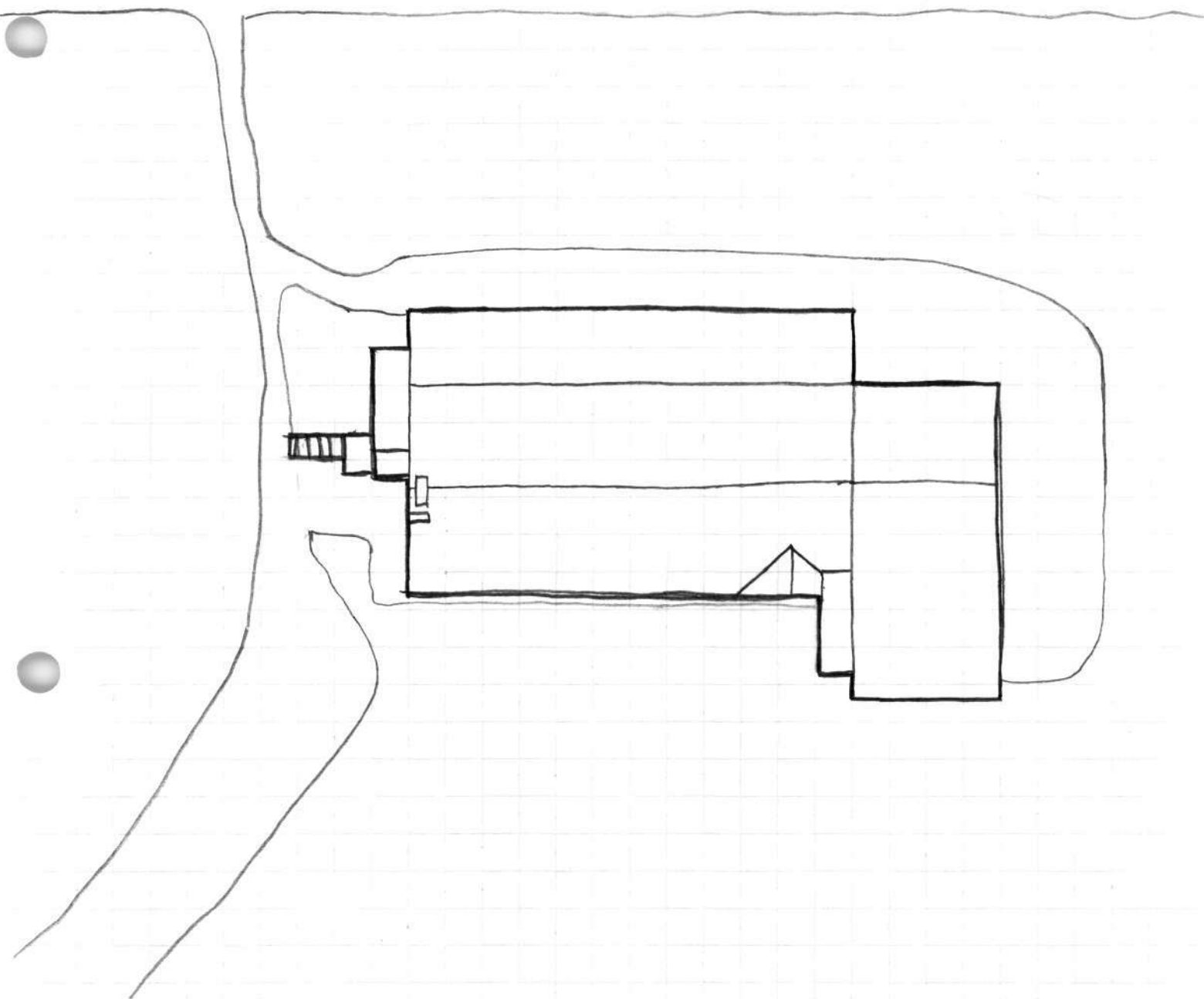
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Caleb Christopher, Architectural Historian , revised by Craig Tuminaro, Architectural Historian		
organization	URS Corporation	date	3.1.03, 5.11.04
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101	telephone	301.258.5897
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

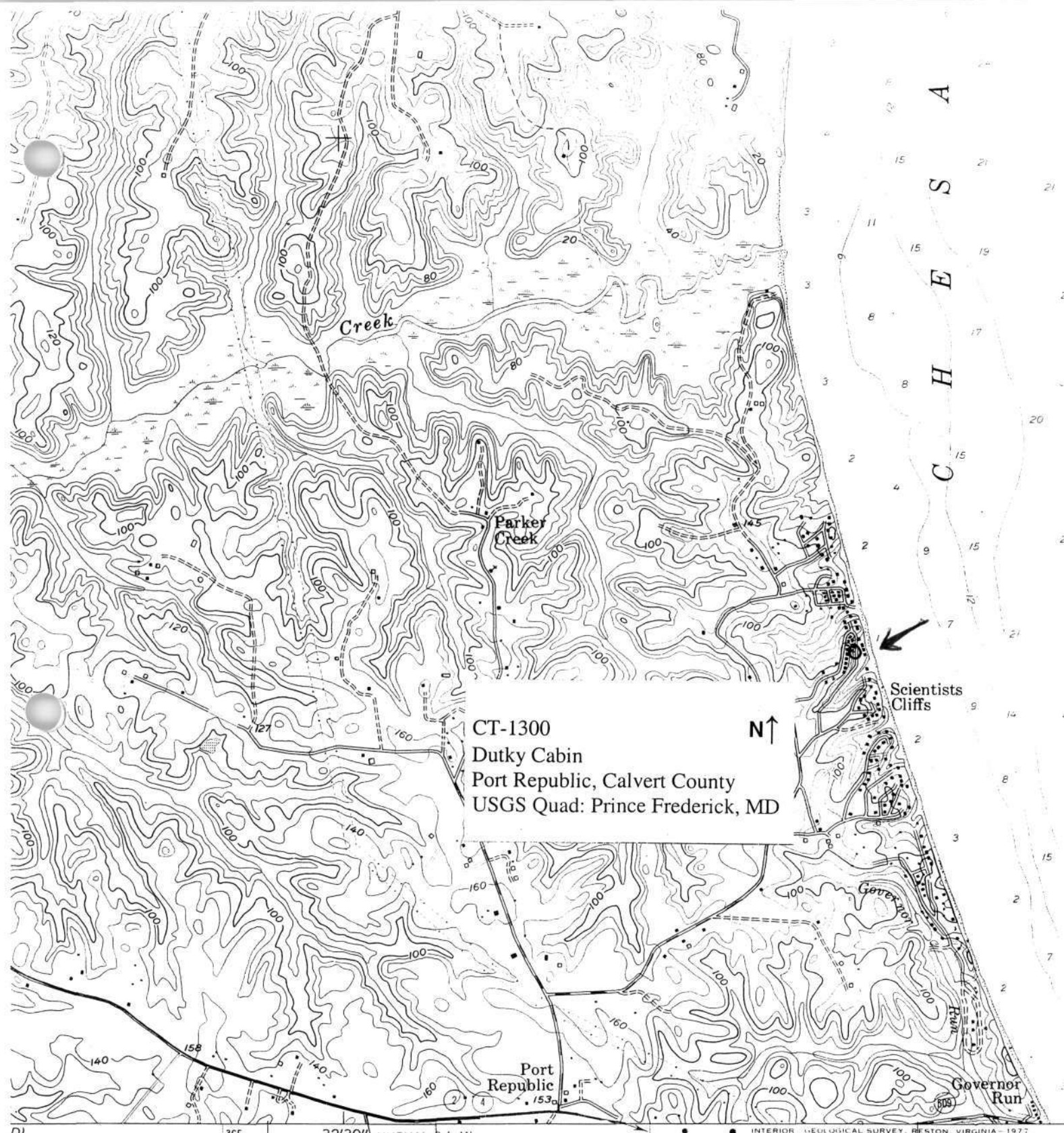
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

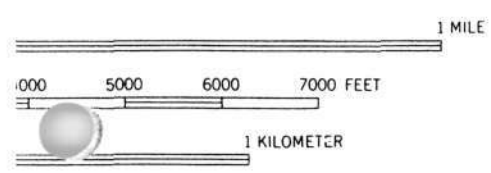


CT-1300
DUTKY CABIN
PORT REPUBLIC, CARVER
COUNTY

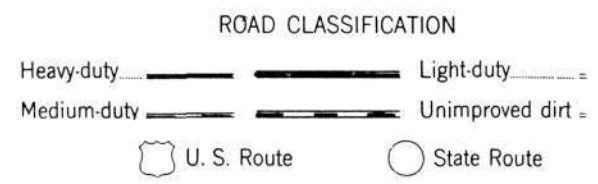
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP
NOT TO SCALE



D) 365 32'30" MUTUAL P. 4 MI. BROOKES ISLAND 5.9 MI. 368000m E. INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 1977 SAINT LEONARD 2 MI. LUSBY 6.7 MI.



0 FEET
 DATUM OF 1929
 DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 E LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 ET AT PLUM POINT



PRINCE FREDERICK
 SE/4 PRINCE FREDERICK 15' QUAD
 N 3830 — W 7630 / 7.5



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 6 0035

016

CT-1300

DUTCH CABIN

CAZUWET, MD

CALEB CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MID SHPO

EAST FACADE

1 OF 6

66517



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 5 0035

019

CT-1300
DUTCH CABIN
CAWERT, MD

CALDER, CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE. MD SHPO

EXIST FACADE

#2 of 6

66520



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 5 0035

018

CT-1300

DUTCH CARIJ

CARUBET, MD

CARUB CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

#3 of 6

66519



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 2 0035

021

CT-1300

DUTKY CABIN

CHALVERT, MD

CAUS CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

#4 OF 6

66522



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN-18 0035

020

CT-1300
DUTK-1 CABIN
CALVERT, MD
CALVERT CHRISTOPHER
11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

#5 OF 6

66521



5.65 BA 0ANX4N NNN- 2 0035

017

CT-1300

DOTY-1 CABIN

CANWICK, MD

CANBY CHRISTOPHER

11/2002

NEGATIVE: MD STUP

VIEW OF RETAINING

WALL IN SW CORNER

66518 #6 of 6